

wherein the substrate is composed of at least one selected from the group consisting of metals, resins, and glass.

#### REMARKS

There are now pending in this application Claims 4 and 6-12 with Claims 4, 9 and 12 being the independent claims.

In the Official Action dated December 18, 2000, Claims 4 and 6-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,589,006 (Itayama et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,470,657 (Hayami) and Applicants' Disclosure at page 3, lines 18-25 of the specification. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

With respect to Claim 4, the present invention relates to a cladding assembly comprising a plurality of building materials each of which comprise a substrate and a solar cell unit fixed to the substrate on a backing material by a fixing member. The cladding assembly also comprises electrical conductive leads arranged between the building materials and the backing material to contact the backing material, for leading output from the solar cell units to the outside. The jacket material of each of the electrical conductive leads is composed

of at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene resins, polyamide resins, vinylidene fluoride resins, chloroprene rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, silicone resins, and flouoresins. The backing material contains any one of asphalt resins, vinyl chloride resins, polystyrene resins and polyurethane resins. The substrate is composed of at least one selected from the group consisting of metals, resins, and glass.

Claim 9 relates to a method of installing a building material and corresponds generally to independent Claim 4.

With respect to Claim 12, the present invention relates to an air flowing apparatus comprising a building material which comprises a substrate and a solar cell unit fixed to the substrate and which is fixed to a backing material with a space therebetween so that the outside air flows in the space, passes through the space and is entrapped in a house or discharged to the outdoors. The air flowing apparatus also comprises an electrical conductive lead arranged between the building material and the backing material to contact the backing material, for leading output from the solar cell unit to the outside. A jacket material of the electrical conductive lead is composed of at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene resins, polyamide resins, vinylidene fluoride resins, chloroprene rubber, ethylene propylene rubber, silicone resins, and flouoresins. The backing material contains any one

of asphalt resins, vinyl chloride resins, polystyrene resins and polyurethane resins. The substrate is composed of at least one selected from the group consisting of metals, resins, and glass.

The Itoyama, et al. patent, relates to a solar cell module and a passive solar heating system using the solar cell module. However, Itoyama, et al. fails to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of the present invention. In particular, the Itoyama, et al. patent fails to disclose or suggest the selection of a specific backing material containing any one of asphalt resins, vinyl chloride resins, polystyrene resins and polyurethane resins. Moreover, this reference fails to disclose, suggest, or identify the problems that can occur when any one of these backing materials is used. Furthermore, Itoyama, et al. fails to disclose or suggest the use of the specific jacket material composed of at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene resins, polyamide resins, vinylidene fluoride resins, chloroprene rubber, ethylene propylene rubber, silicone resins, and flouoresins such that the problems caused by the use of anyone of the aforementioned backing materials are alleviated by the use of any of the claimed jacket materials.

The Hayami patent teaches a heat resistant high voltage insulated lead wire for direct current with an insulating coating over the conductor that is formed by a polyolefin resin

composition. However, Hayami fails to disclose or suggest the aforementioned features of the present invention. Therefore, the Hayami reference is unable to compensate for the deficiencies of Itoyama, et al.

Applicant's disclosure at page 3, lines 18-25, merely discusses the practice of lengthening electrical conductive leads of solar cell modules to facilitate connecting conductive leads of adjacent solar cell modules. The lengthening of such leads often creates contact between the leads and the backing material, thus contributing to the deterioration of the solar cell modules over time. However, this disclosure at page 3 of the specification in no way discloses or suggest the use of a specified backing material in combination with a specified jacket material so as to eliminate solar cell module deterioration due to contact between the jacket material and the backing material.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

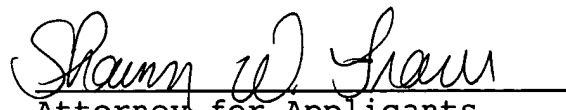
For the above reasons, Applicants submit that independent Claims 4, 9 and 12 are allowable over the cited art. The dependent claims depend from the independent claims and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recite additional features in combination with the features of their respective independent claims and is

believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action and submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and early passage to issue of the present application earnestly are solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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